

WHERE TO SEE OUR KOALAS.

Because the status of the local population is “Endangered” you may well be disappointed. The depleted numbers mean that koalas are not as readily encountered as in the past.

However, if you can recognise the more preferred food trees and know which areas are most likely you stand a better chance.... Koalas rest during the day and are more active at night.

You may also observe the “olive seed’ shaped koala droppings at the base of a tree as an indication of a koala presence.



Most sightings are in Hawks Nest although koalas are sometimes seen in Tea Gardens

If you do see some, the local koala group would urge you to ring and report the sighting on 02 4997 0878 which is a special Hotline.

You would be assisting the group in monitoring the population and adding to their detailed ongoing records which are kept and sent to various authorities.

A description is also very useful (male/female etc.) The group knows many by name as well as their individual histories.

Male of Female?

If you can, look at the white “bib” and see if you can see a yellow stain. If so, you are looking at a male.

He will rub that scent gland against trees to mark out his territory during the breeding season. Females are not territorial.

Koalas live solitary lives, but the breeding season is the exception.

The male is much bigger than the female. All koalas can live 12+ years in the wild and 16+ years in captivity.

Males will frequently “bellow” in the breeding season and this very loud sound, (between a snore and a belch) can be quite startling to someone unfamiliar with koalas.

Babies are the size of a jellybean when born and are not fully weaned until 12 months of age. They stay in the pouch for five months and then become “back babies,” clinging to their mothers’ backs or stomachs and putting their heads into the pouch to feed.

Usually one joey is born each year.

Koalas can store uneaten food in cheek pouches while moving to a safer location. They do not need to drink except in times of drought or fire when moisture from leaves is insufficient.



Because there are only a small number of individuals usually resident in H.N. your efforts to see one might well be unrewarded but you have a better chance in the spring-summer breeding season when more of our koalas are in town.

The map overleaf shows the main “Movement Corridor” to and from the National Park. This “corridor is where most food trees are, but within the extensive area this corridor covers there are street where Koalas are more likely to be seen.

Kingfisher and Ibis Ave, along the edges of the Koala Reserve (*on the Northern side of the Singing Bridge*) is a popular spot

Other possibilities are:-

Margaret, Bowral, Binda, Mireen and Yamba Streets - Mermaid Avenue and East and West Close (*small cul-de-sacs off Mireen St.*)

TREES



The Swamp Mahogany

is the most preferred food tree in this area. Its brown bark persists right up to the smallest branches,

where as the Blackbutt has white upper branches and is more commonly used as a resting tree.

Koalas in

Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens

Visitors can help the Endangered Population

It is possible to encounter a koala anywhere in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens. Therefore it is essential when driving that you observe speed limits and be particularly vigilant at night.

If your pet dog is accompanying you, ensure it is kept off the streets unless it is on a leash.

If you see a koala, take the time to register the sighting. You can do this by leaving a message on the Koala Hotline

Phone: 02 4997 0878

and follow the prompts.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY DURING YOUR QUEST AND RESPECT THE NEED FOR THE KOALAS TO REST AND MOVE WITHOUT UNDUE DISTURBANCE



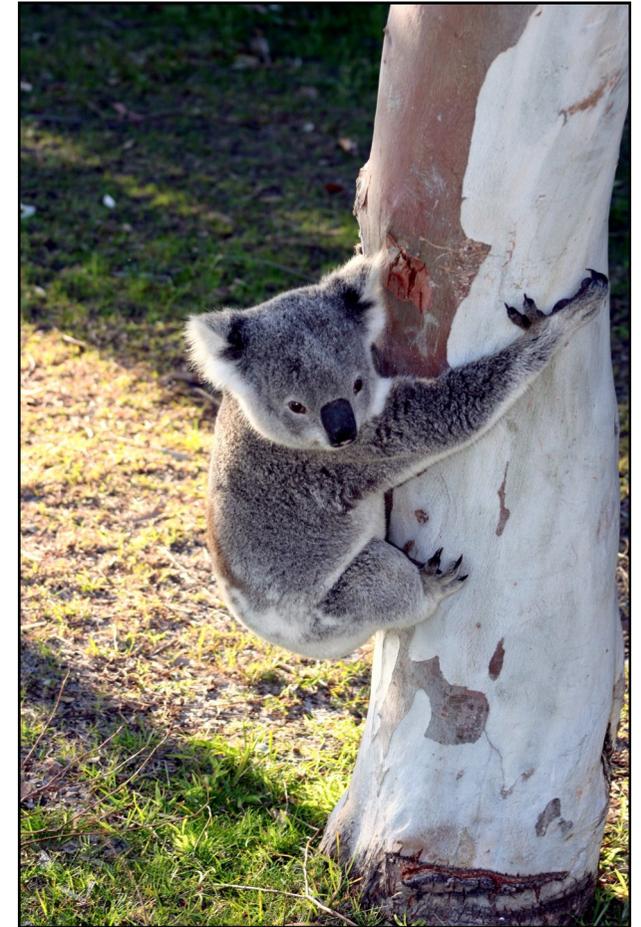
Tea Gardens Visitor Centre
245 Myall Street
02 4997 0111
www.teagardens.nsw.au
teagardensvic@gmail.com

Koala Movement Corridor to and from the National Park Habitat

- ◆ The most likely spot to see a Koala is along the edges of the Koala Reserve on the Northern side of the Singing Bridge. The Swamp Mahogany trees are located along the perimeter.
- ◆ Other possibilities are Mermaid Avenue, East and West Close Cul-de-sacs off Mirreen Street, Margaret, Bowral, Binda and Yamba Streets -



Spotting a Koala In Hawks Nest



Information for this flyer was received from the Myall Koala and Environment Support Group Inc.

The group fosters preservation of the locally endangered Koala population as well as being actively involved in fighting to protect the Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens environment.

Email: myall.koalas@gmail.com